

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application, all of which have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract for various informalities.

Accordingly, the Abstract has been amended and a substitute sheet for the Abstract is attached hereto.

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 for various informalities.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to correct such informalities.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication US 2003/0096521 to Kikuchi et al. (hereafter, "**Kikuchi et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Kikuchi et al. discloses a card connector including a housing formed by a base plate and a metal plate cover mounted on the base plate; an eject mechanism provided in the housing to eject a card, the eject mechanism including an operation member mounted slidable along one side of the housing, a spring member to elastically urge the operation member, and an eject member integrally formed with the operation member and driven by an accumulated elastic force of the spring member to push the operation member to eject the card; and a feeling lock mechanism having a feeling lock member adapted to engage a lock recess of the card.

The Examiner has labeled item “20a” in FIG. 8 as “a first rib which abuts the tip end of the lock spring to prevent the tip end from being displaced when the slider is positioned at the card pop-out preventing position,” as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, item “20a” is part of lock spring 36 in FIG. 8 of Kikuchi et al. In contrast, in the present invention, the “first rib” is part of the base which abuts the tip end of the lock spring.

Second, paragraph [0090] of Kikuchi et al. discloses:

In the card connector 20 of the present invention, the feeling lock member 36 of the feeling lock mechanism 25 has both ends thereof secured to the operation lever 28 and is thus supported as a doubly supported spring. Therefore, when the lock projection 37 of the feeling lock mechanism 25 engages the lock recess 31 of the card 30, the feeling lock mechanism 25 can support and hold the card 30 reliably with an increased elastic holding force of the doubly supported spring. Further, when a withdrawing force is applied to the card 30, a corner of the lock recess 31 of the card 30 pushes the lock projection 37 of the feeling lock member 36 outwardly, disengaging the lock projection 37 from the lock recess 31, with the result that the card 30 can be pulled out from the card connector 20 smoothly.

Thus, Kikuchi et al. discloses that the shape of lock member 36, including portion “20a” as labeled by the Examiner, actually helps cause the lock portion 37 to disengage from the lock recess of the card, in contrast to the present invention, in which the first rib prevents the tip end from “displacing” (disengaging) when the slider is positioned at the card pop-out preventing position.

It should be noted that the lock member 36 has both ends secured to and doubly supported by the operation member 28, as disclosed in paragraphs [0087] and [0090].

In contrast, the present invention includes a lock spring 400 having a tip end normally kept free. In discharging a card, a slider 200 is displaced to a card pop-out prevention position, while the tip end of the lock spring moves together with the slider and abuts a first rib 130 provided in a base in order not to move away from the card.

Therefore, the present invention has a different mechanism for preventing the card from popping out.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4 should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-4, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.


If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/531,913**
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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure
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